Customer contact programme for enhancing customer loyalty.

Payment of Royalty to Gujarat

3183. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized the rate of royalty on crude oil for Gujarat for the block 1996-1999 and 1999-2002;

(b) if not, by when it is to be finalized; and

(c) what is the amount due, to be paid to Gujarat from 1991 to 2000 as per the rates already finalized for earlier blocks and for the blocks 1999-2000?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Royalty on crude oil is one of the sources of revenue to oil producing States, including the State of Gujarat. Rates of royalty are notified by Central Government in accordance with Oilfields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959, as amended from time to time. For the period 1996-98, the present provisional rate of royalty will be substituted by another rate on finalisation of the crude prices for the period, which would be done on receipt of audited figures on cost of production from Comptroller and Auditor General (C&AG). For the period, 1.4.1998 onwards, payments of royalty on crude oil to various State Governments including Gujarat are being made provisionally pending introduction of a new scheme of royalty. The Government have constituted a Committee to evolve a new scheme of royalty on crude oil. The Committee is in the process of finalising its report after consultations with the State Governments and other organisations concerned. Government would take a view after the report of the Committee is received.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Strike by Petroleum Employees in Mumbai and Kolkata

3184. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the petroleum employees union had observed a series of token strikes from 23rd April to 15th May in Mumbai and Kolkata to protest over the failure of wage negotiations;

(b) if so, what is their charter of demands; and

(c) how far Government have acceded to the demands of the union?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Petroleum Employees Union of IBP Company Limited, Mumbai and Kolkata had observed token strikes in Mumbai on 23, 24 and 25th April, 2001 and in Kolkata on 17 to 19th April, 2001.

(b) Demands of Petroleum Employees Union, IBP, Mumbai have been settled through signing of Long Term Settlement (LTS). IBP's Petroleum Employees Union (Eastern Branch), Kolkata had neither submitted any charter of demands nor participated in the negotiations, therefore, no settlements could be arrived with them.

(c) In view of the above, question does not arise.

Construction of Gas Cracker Unit in Assam

3185. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of hurdles that prevent the starting of construction of Gas Cracker Unit in Assam; and

(b) the steps taken to remove those hurdles alongwith the time-frame therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH